

Introduction

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The Mission of the Environment of Care is twofold:

- to improve the interior finishes, lighting, signage, artwork, and informational furniture throughout Hospital and Clinic facilities supporting the U.S. Army in Europe; and
- to create a consistent and professional Environment of Care that will contribute to the welfare of the patients and the productivity of the staff.

To that end, the Environment of Care - Europe: Design and Implementation Guide (ECE Design Guide) provides a reference for construction, preservation, and renovation of Europe Regional Medical Command (ERMC) Hospitals and Clinics by establishing a basis for the development of a quality healthcare environment.

Use of this Guide

The ECE Design Guide is intended as a resource to complement Military Handbook 1191 in the design of healthcare environments for the Europe Regional Medical Command. It provides a foundation for design, not a prescriptive statement – groundwork for the development of unique design solutions appropriate to a range of applications. It may be the primary resource when there is a need for a simple answer to a question regarding choice of material, or color; or it may be used as an aid in the creation of an overall interior design package for a complete clinic, building, or complex. The extent and importance of a project should dictate the tack taken.

The material renovation (replacement or updating of material finishes) of an office facility may be accomplished with reference to this guide alone. However, even a minor alteration to a major public entry is a complex task, and should not be undertaken without professional design assistance or other substantial guidance. In the case of these more challenging design efforts, the ECE Design Guide will serve as a thorough reference for the design professional, and a standard by which the facility project manager may judge the design solution.

The Guide at a Glance

The ECE Design Guide consists of the following sections.

Application Guidelines

If you read nothing else in this guide, read this section at least once. It contains the conceptual core of the ECE package—an explanation of the design basis—and provides some general guidelines for application of materials.

Material Finish Specifications

The reference materials that make up the Environment of Care finishes are introduced. For each, there is a technical specification, material finish representation, discussion of application, and list of contacts for the referenced products. Material selections provided have been chosen for their conformance to the ECE in both design and specification. These materials are essentially a pre-approved design kit. While ideally all material

decisions might be made in advance and cast in stone, realistically there are times when—due to material availability or existing design elements which will remain—it becomes necessary to deviate from the pre-approved selections. In such instances, the material specifications provide guidance for the technical selection of product, and material references guidance for appearance. Material specifications provide guidance for the technical selection of product. These are minimum performance specifications that must be met by any material before its application within the ECE.

Lighting

A requirement of any environment, and a powerful design element when properly applied; lighting complements a space, and is a powerful ally. Improperly applied, it can destroy the presence of a space. A visual catalog of typical lighting fixtures is provided, as well as a basic discussion of lighting uses.

Signage, Wayfinding

Helping people get where they are going is the key to a successful wayfinding strategy. But while directional signage is a big part of an overall wayfinding solution, so are other visual clues such as color-coding and landmarks. And, while much signage is elemental to wayfinding, much other signage is purely informational in nature—providing hours of operation, warnings, and other labeling functions. The ECE signage package, because of its breadth and flexibility, also includes some items which otherwise might be classified as Informational Displays.

Informational Displays

Accessory items that hold magazines, pamphlets, patient folders, and notices; bulletin boards and display cases are all part of the informational display selections of the ECE. Informational displays, together with signage, provide a mechanism for the unification of warnings, labels, hours of operation; magazines, pamphlets, patient records and such.

Artwork

Filling part of the need to bring a human touch to the medical environment, artwork selections have been provided to accommodate a variety of themes. There are over 60 artists' works represented, as well as guidelines for display and the selection of additional work.

Example or Instruction

The ECE Design Guide contains information on material finishes, lighting, artwork, and signage. It is necessary at times to be quite specific in reference to these elements. Those times are at points where choices have been limited in order to accomplish the goals of consistency and corporate professionalism. The Guide contains many examples of products selected to fulfill the expression of the Environment of Care. Sometimes these elements are examples of a type only and many products will satisfy the need. At other times, materials referenced are fixed starting points and should be closely adhered to. The reasons for the difference will be clarified below. In

any case, the ECE Design Guide will assist in making the decisions critical to a successful application.

Ultimately the ECE Design Guide is just that: a guide. It is neither prescription nor cookbook, but definition of the basis for a uniformly excellent environment.

